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# The Woman Voter

Vol. V. FEBRUARY, 1914. No. 2.

## Dramatic Number

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## DRAMATIC NUMBER

### CONTENTS

Cover Drawing by Carter Housh
The Drama and Suffrage.
—Beatrice Forbes-Robertson Hale . 7
Why We Must Win.
—By Men and Women of the Stage 8
Plays For Propaganda—Fola La Follette 9
The Vice Plays—A Symposium . , 10
The Feminist Movement in Drama.
—Mary Shaw . . . . . 13
A Little Playhouse—Why Not?
—Lillah Alsbury Pirie . . . . 14
Hymn to Equal Suffrage—Percy Mackaye 15
The Actor's Equity Association.
—Sarah R. Parks . . . . . 16
The Woman's National Theatre.
—Edith Ellis . . . . . 17
Nowadays—Marie Jenney Howe . . 18
Empire State Campaign.
—Anne O'Hagan Shinn . . . 19
The Woman Suffrage Party . . . 23
From the Assembly Districts
—Adaline W. Sterling . . . 25
Calendar for February . . . . 31

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## HARPER'S WEEKLY

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## OUR DRAMATIC NUMBER.

THIS issue of THE WOMAN VOTER is dedicated to the loyal and devoted women and men of the stage who are friends of our cause.

For cheerful cooperation, ready help and steadfast advocacy of woman suffrage, we owe a debt to the dramatic profession.

Playwrights have utilized our propaganda to bring the subject in a new way to new audiences. Actors have not only interpreted the movement to many who otherwise would never have understood it, but again and again they have given their professional services in our behalf. Managers have generously lent their theatres for suffrage meetings and frequently have permitted our speakers to appear between the acts of their regular performances.

There are few groups in the community who have helped us more in the past and to whom we look for even greater assistance in the future.

For we need the stage as one of our great means of interpreting the woman movement. And we need the active cooperation of every manager, playwright and member of the dramatic profession if we are to win the Empire State in 1915.

## THE DRAMA AND SUFFRAGE.

IN these days the popular or "Broadway" idea of the theatre as a place of mere amusement, and of dramas as "shows," is gradually giving way to the true conception of the theatre as a great public agency for the discussion of ideas, and of plays as works of art. No aspect of life, public or private, is left untouched by the modern drama. We have seen its broadening influence in plays on themes moral, social, and political. The artist of ideas realizes that he can reach a thousand members of the average public with a successful play, where a novel is read by one, and, more and more, "art with a purpose" turns to the former mode of expression. No one can estimate how much such a play as "The Man of the Hour," melodramatic as it was, impressed on the public the need of reform in city politics, and when a drama of ideas is also a fine work of art, such as Brieux's "Damaged Goods," it is difficult to overestimate its value.

The suffragists of England discovered some years ago the need of plays for propaganda, the Actresses' Franchise League of London having devoted itself to this form of work for the cause since its organization in 1908. The first matinée of suffrage plays to be given here was, I think, the one organized by the Women's Political Union, under my direction, at Maxine Elliott's Theatre in March, 1910. "How the Vote Was Won" made its bow to the American public on that occasion, and has been first suffrage favorite ever since. The plays available at that time were all English, but our own writers, once they realized the value of this medium for suffrage propaganda, set to work with enthusiasm, and we now have a number of excellent native plays to draw from.

To the anxious president of a small country club, eager to find some new way of interesting the voters during the coming campaign, I cannot too strongly recommend the suffrage play. Interest in amateur theatricals is universal, and people can be drawn to such a performance who would never willingly set foot in a regular suffrage meeting. Once there, it is easy to set them thinking to good purpose. The plays have the further great advantage, never overlooked by good campaigners, of providing an easy method of raising funds. Every possible avenue of approach to the minds of voters must be utilized if we are to win in 1915. Let us not ignore this admirably effective one, but rather sit down here and now and write to the National Association for its catalogue of suffrage plays. I need not urge this on the large clubs—they have already learned the lesson—but I should like to see an Amateur Dramatic Club attached to each organization through the State, and I say this not only as suffragist, but as actress. For I believe in "Home Rule" in things dramatic, in the value of local effort, not only to aid the cause of suffrage, but the cause of good-fellowship, cultivation, and love of art generally.

Always, however, with this proviso: that the plays produced be good of their kind, and the

work put into them earnest. Art and suffrage are never helped by too easy or cheap an effort. Crudity convinces no one. In this, as in all other forms of propaganda, our motto must be, "The best of which we are capable and the best *only*." Artists learn this lesson early; suffragists, too, I think, have learned, and are learning it hourly.

**Beatrice Forbes-Robertson Hale.**

# WHY WE MUST WIN.

BY

## MEN AND WOMEN OF THE STAGE

**SIR JOHNSON FORBES-ROBERTSON.**

I AM in favor of women having the vote because I disapprove of any inequalities of opportunity based on sex. The vote will, I believe, ultimately lead to the removal of all such inequalities, a matter of utmost importance for the development of society as a whole.

**GERTRUDE ELLIOT.**

THE vote is the only means, I fully believe, through which women will take their share of the world's work side by side with men. They will continue to do their special work as women as before, just as men to-day do their private work as individuals, while sharing the responsibility of our common public life as citizens.

**MARGARET McKINNEY McALLISTER.**

PERENNIAL exposures of corruption in federal, state and municipal legislative and executive offices warrant the assumption that male administration is mal-administration and I suggest an infusion of the female vote as a preventive of the malady.

**EDITH WYNNE MATTHISON.**

I BELIEVE in the suffrage movement because I am a part of it, because I grew up in it, because I must. Surely, it is a part of the necessary clear thinking and spiritual illumination of the day.

**MAY IRWIN.**

WOMEN'S responsibilities are as great as men's—and, in some instances, greater; therefore we should be entitled to the vote as well as the men.

**PERCY HASWELL.**

I BELIEVE above all else a woman is a human being and has the right to a voice in the governing of state and home.

**EMILY STEVENS.**

I BELIEVE in woman suffrage because I believe in equal political rights for all human beings.

**MADAME NAZIMOVA.**

WOMAN'S work in the home and in a hundred outside employments is equivalent to man's. Like men, thousands of women are absolutely independent. Like men, millions contribute to the upkeep of the country. What stronger reasons can there be for giving them the vote? What stronger reasons are there for men having it?

**SYBILLA POPE.**

IF woman does the major work in perpetuating the race, she certainly should have the right to know that her daughter as well as her son be recognized as equals in *every* sense of the word, and have the right to say who shall represent her as the head of the nation and in every other office. If woman can work she should say what conditions it should be under.

**VIRGINIA KLINE.**

I BELIEVE in suffrage for woman because I believe in progress for man!

**BEATRICE FORBES-ROBERTSON**

*An active worker in the Woman Suffrage Party who is widely known as a speaker*

**PERCY MACKAYE.**

IF there is any reason, justice or moral validity in the cause of political freedom for which men have struggled for ages, then men should be the first to advocate and work for woman's suffrage. To do otherwise is to make light of their own sanest ideals. May "Votes for Women" speed well and triumph, and so hasten real democracy in America!

**MRS. COBURN, OF THE COBURN PLAYERS.**

THAT this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that the government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

**BEATRICE DE MILLE.**

IT is unbelievable that in this twentieth century almost half of the American people should be fighting *taxation* without *representation*. Hearty greetings to all who are endeavoring to right this weird wrong.

**MIRZEH CHESLIR.**

I BELIEVE in woman suffrage because it means breaking through one more evolutionary chain—nearer freedom.

**ELIZABETH GARTH.**

I BELIEVE in woman suffrage because it means eventually universal freedom and independence.

**MADAME YORSKA.**

MEN have dominated, handled and governed the social, political and moral destinies of our world for centuries. They have failed to solve the problem of white slavery and poverty. Why not give women a chance to try new efforts by new methods, especially in this country where women have a seriousness of heart, a cleanliness of mind, so rare! so beautiful!

**LILLIAN RUSSELL.**

I AM a born suffragist. My mother ran for Mayor of New York City.

**LAURA BURT.**

I AM with all my heart and prayers for suffrage.

**GRACE FILKINS.**

I BELIEVE in woman suffrage and I think the only thing for women to do is to win it!

**MARGARET ILLINGTON.**

IN the far West, where the woman suffrage movement first gained a stronghold in America, I have watched closely and at first hand what the results have been of granting to women suffrage, and I am firmly convinced that in those cities on the Pacific Coast where equal suffrage prevails there is less of evil government and corrupt administration than at any time in our political history.

With the rise of woman to power the doom of some of the most regrettable features of our modern metropolitan civilization is sounded. ,

**LAURETTE TAYLOR.**

OF course I wish the suffragists tremendous good luck.

**LULU BRUNING.**

I BELIEVE in equal suffrage because I consider it common sense and common justice.

**LOUISE CLOSSER HALE.**

I BELIEVE that equal suffrage is a process of evolution. A thousand years from now the historians may point out that it was a mistake, but it has come, and we cannot, if we would, resist it. One might as well attempt to press back the tide with the palm of one's hand.

**MABEL TALIAFERRO.**

I HONESTLY believe that any fair-minded woman who knows her world and her sex could be nothing but in favor of suffrage.

**IDA MUELLE.**

INDEED I am a suffragist, thoroughly in sympathy with the cause, so much so that all my spare time is given to it and always has been.

**JULIA ASHTON LUNDLOW.**

I FIRMLY believe that women must, for the good of the world and the race, have the power to vote and hold positions in our government.

**ADELEINE BOURNE,**
**Founder of the Actresses' Franchise League, in London.**

I AM a suffragist because I don't see why I shouldn't be.

**ESSEX DANE.**

I BELIEVE in suffrage because I believe that a world which was created for men and women can only be governed satisfactorily and progressively by men and women together, and that in increasing the responsibilities and taking away the disabilities of women lies the best hope for the children of the future.

## A NEW HONOR FOR BERNHARDT.

MADAME Sarah Bernhardt has recently been decorated with the Legion of Honor. News of this great recognition of her service to the French nation caused great rejoicing in literary and artistic circles. The members of her company gave her a diamond cross to commemorate the event and she received hundreds of messages of congratulation from all parts of the world.

Madame Bernhardt is a staunch suffragist. During her last visit to America she spoke often of her deep interest in the movement. The reception given her by The Woman Suffrage Party was one of the great suffrage events of the season.

♣ ♣ ♣

AMONG English actresses who are advocates of woman suffrage are *Ellen Terry, Marie Tempest, Gertrude Elliott, Lena Ashwell, Eva Moore* and *Irene Vanbrugh.*

♣ ♣ ♣

## PLAYS FOR PROPAGANDA.

IN a suffrage campaign the great problem is never the conversion of those who are actually opposed to Votes for Women. The great difficulty is in reaching those who are not sufficiently interested even to attend a first suffrage or Anti-suffrage meeting. It is in reaching these indifferent people and awakening in them an initial interest that the theatre affords such remarkable opportunities. Many who could not be induced to attend their maiden suffrage meeting, will be interested in seeing a play, a moving picture, or a pageant on the subject. The drama is a particularly effective avenue for stirring to new consciousness that large group whose inherited emotional prejudice inhibits their power to think on the question. They must first *feel* through new channels before their minds are freed for any thoughtful or impartial consideration of the subject.

When an individual is possessed by an intense traditional feeling that all suffragists are strange masculine creatures asking that women shall be unsexed, he must first be brought to a feeling that they are fellow human beings with earnest convictions and an honest desire for human betterment. Not until then can he begin to think about whether they should be enfranchised or not.

Through a play which deals with the subject seriously this type of individual, who could not possibly be induced to attend a suffrage meeting, may frequently have his traditional prejudices dispelled and be moved to new understanding and careful consideration of the question. If, on the other hand, the play handles the subject through satirical comedy one often finds that laughter brings conversion or at least an open mind to those who have refused to listen to argument.

The amateur production of suffrage plays in different communities has an added asset for suffrage beside that of reaching an audience which

would not turn out for a propaganda speech. It furnishes an admirable opportunity, particularly in the production of large pageants involving many people, for interesting the young men and women of the community. Frequently it inspires those who play the parts with a new enthusiasm and from mere silent believers in equal suffrage they develop into active workers.

—Fola La Follette.

## THE VICE PLAYS.

DO the so-called "vice plays" which present the problems of white slavery and prostitution merely suggest evil to the innocent and satisfy the curiosity of the vulgar, or do they actually warn the ignorant of grave dangers? Are they only another illustration of the commercialization of the drama and the exploitation of a sociological interest, or are they a genuine contribution to sex education?

These questions have greatly stirred the public within the last few months. The matter has been widely discussed in public meetings and open forums, in newspapers and magazines. The presentation of Brieux's *Damaged Goods,* which seems to be in a class by itself, was a prelude to the more recent output, which includes *The Lure* and *The Fight,* among plays, and *The Traffic in Souls* and *The Inside of the White Slave Traffic* in moving pictures.

Since many public spirited citizens hold widely divergent views upon the subject, we have asked for a frank statement from those who represent both sides of the question.

### ANTHONY COMSTOCK.

IN reply to the question "Do you think the Vice Plays or picture films showing up the White Slave Traffic should be suppressed?" Mr. Comstock says:

"I have seen none of these plays, therefore I cannot pass judgment upon them, but if the descriptions given of these pictures correctly represent them, I think they may many of them be branded as insidious, demoralizing and in some instances devilish.

"To depict licentious scenes for the purpose of suppressing licentiousness, is simply to corrupt the minds of the young, and suggest ways and means of doing things of which they are entirely ignorant.

"Among one of the leading cases reported of judicial decisions, is one where the Court uses the following illustration:

> "'The exhibition of a nude body for the purpose of operation before a medical class would be considered proper under the circumstances, but the same exhibition if presented in such a manner that boys and girls could see it, would be clearly within the law.'

"The test as laid down by the higher courts of Great Britain and of the United States concerning books, pictures, printed matters and displays before the public is as follows:

> "'Whether the tendency of the matter is to deprave and corrupt the minds of persons open to such influences, into whose hands a publication of this sort might fall.'

"In applying this test the higher courts of Great Britain and of the United States said:

> "'It is within the statute if it would suggest lewd or libidinous thoughts to the minds of the young and inexperienced.'

"THERE are two public interests that are safeguarded by the Common Law where the police power is unlimited and indefinable, to wit: Public Health and Public Morals. These two interests are supported on every hand; and the same drastic measures that are applied where contagious diseases break out in a community should be applied in any community, or portion of a community, where demoralization exists.

"To depict upon the stage, or to put in the newspapers details of how the White Slave Traffic is conducted by the moral perverts of the land, or to attempt to express the abominations of the house of ill fame by such methods, must appear to every clean-minded and decent person an outrage upon the public, having a most dangerous and demoralizing effect upon the young and inexperienced."

### MRS. BARCLAY HAZARD.

WHEN Mrs. Barclay Hazard, head of the New York branch of the Florence Crittenden Association was asked her opinion upon the subject, she replied:

"I have recently expressed myself fully in one of the daily papers. I think the plays and films, such as I have seen, or heard of, do not portray conditions as they really exist; they exaggerate or add to the story they are trying to tell; also by suggestion they put ideas into the minds of the young which might never have occurred to them naturally. Even when the story depicted is one of wretchedness, it does not deter girls from that life, but stirs up the craving for excitement so strong in the natures of many of these really 'subnormal' women spurring them on to try to win out where those others, not so smart, lost. My long experience in working among unfortunate girls has taught me that the vast majority of white slaves are willing slaves and that all this publicity which has thrown the lime-light upon them has made them fancy themselves the heroines of the day.

The only hope of doing anything for the betterment of these miserable conditions is to get those who know the work, the experts, to strike at the very root of the matter by working quietly and sanely, enforcing the laws, helping to lift into a healthy, moral life those who can be persuaded to be helped and finally to discourage the printing of 'sob-stories,' and the portrayal of white slaves in picture shows and theatres."

### TULLY MARSHALL.

MR. TULLY MARSHALL, who takes a leading rôle in "The House of Bondage," says:

"I can say that whereas I most heartily deprecate the so-called 'vice or white slave play,' which under the cloak of sentimentality and pseudo-sociology caters to the worst instincts, I as heartily commend and approve of such true and sincere presentations of the effect of the social evil upon our civic life. as well as upon individuals as in 'The House of Bondage.'"

"In this play there is no sex-appeal whatever, under any guise whatever, and I believe that its sincerity of purpose will be manifest."

### MRS. EDWARD R. HEWETT.

TAKING a middle ground between the opposing opinions, Mrs. Edward R. Hewett, President of the *Woman's Municipal League,* replied:

"As I have not seen, with one exception, the plays or films under discussion, I do not feel that I have a right to express any opinion of them nor of their effect upon the public morals. But I will say I do not think the plays and films should be judged together, for they reach vastly different audiences.

"On account of the class of people who go to see the pictures I think that none which show the life of the underworld should be shown. While it is true that the object is to portray the utter wretchedness of

the life of the prostitute, on the other hand, it suggests to men and boys a means of livelihood which they may in many cases put into practice.

"With the one vice play which I saw, 'Damaged Goods,' it seemed to me that the audience received it in all earnestness of spirit. I felt that their interest was aroused by the presentation of a serious menace to the human race, and that on the whole the result must have been far more for good than evil."

### MRS. CHARLES ISRAELS.

MRS. CHARLES ISRAELS, widely known as a pioneer in providing safe and sane amusements for young girls, contributed the following statement:

"Seemingly the pendulum has swung from sanity to insanity on the subject of sex plays and films. It is only by a reasonable appreciation of what is good and what is bad that we can hope to get back to something like equilibrium. When a play has a definite message and is directly planned to give it, as *Damaged Goods,* it is worth while and meets dramatic and ethical requirements. When it is a simple lesson such as *The Lure* it also has value. When the play goes beyond this and is simply a picture of conditions which are not conducive to wholesome living, and when its theme will only rouse dangerous and unwholesome discussion among young people, it goes beyond the bounds of conscience. There is no set rule that can be applied; audiences cannot be restricted. Of course, there is always the hope that in a general audience some one person will be more benefited than another.

We scatter seeds; in some places they grow; in others they do not; but we need to be careful that we scatter the seeds of good flowers. *The House of Bondage,* for instance, has gone beyond the bounds of decency and is loathsome in its pathological presentation of disgusting detail.

After all, cannot the stage do more for real uplift by presenting clean and wholesome plays with true romance and beauty, such as *A Thousand Years Ago* and *If I Were King,* than with all the sex dramas ever written?

### MRS. CARRIE C. CATT.

MRS. CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT says:

"The sudden appearance of books and plays which picture graphically the moral conditions of the present time are symptoms of a fundamental change in public thought. We refuse longer to believe that ignorance of evil is a protection to any girl or young man. Such dramas as 'Damaged Goods,' by Brieux, do an immense amount of good. Even the two plays which were expurgated recently by the New York police, because each had a scene laid in a brothel, set the community thinking by the shock which they created. Only by shocking some people can they be made to think. As much may be said for novels of a similar type, such as 'The House of Bondage,' and for sundry recent books dealing with white slavery, so called. The efforts of the sincere, if revolutionary, authors of today should bear fruit in a higher standard of public morals."

"An immoral play is one that treats an immoral situation with jocularity; or that shows sin or the life of sin idealized and made appealing to sympathy or desire; or that bungles in its technique. For the more delicate the problem the finer should be the hand to portray it."

—RABBI HARRIS.

## FOLA LA FOLLETTE

*An actress who has given loyal service to the Party as Captain, as one of the Twenty-five Players and as a speaker*

"THE feminist movement, properly understood, is merely the moral movement in human evolution. It is merely the substitution of modes of thought based on present conditions of industry and education for modes of thought which were built up under a system of constant warfare and general ignorance. The movement of women toward contributions to the world's ethical progress is just as resistless as the march of general education or the movement of industries out of the home into the factories. It is one of the biggest facts to-day, and it will be a still bigger fact tomorrow." — NORMAN HAPGOOD in *Harper's Weekly.*

## SOME FIGURES ARE INTERESTING.

ONE-fifth of the United States Senate is composed of men from equal suffrage States, one-seventh of the House of Representatives is equal suffrage, and one-sixth of the presidential electors will come from equal suffrage States in the next election. Eleven Senators from non-suffrage States have spoken for the national amendment in Congress.

From the new process of the Baciagalupi Corporation, 261 West 36th Street, N. Y.

## A PIONEER IN THE DRAMA OF FEMINISM

*Suffragists owe a deep debt of gratitude to Mary Shaw for her heroic and steadfast service to the woman movement.*

# THE FEMINIST MOVEMENT IN DRAMA

BY

MARY SHAW.

WHAT has the Drama done to help the Cause of Woman? Everything it is possible for Drama to do. The sphere of its influence is two-fold: it can be read as literature and also performed in the theatre. It is the motive power that arouses and stimulates and holds the imagination captive.

Only those who have a comprehensive knowledge of the theatre and drama can appreciate what the feminist movement owes to both. Hampered as drama and the theatre are by modern conditions, they have yet been pioneers, untiring and fearless, in changing the thought of the world about women.

One of the greatest champions of the emancipation of women that the world had ever known was a dramatist. He was the genius of his age, a poet and writer of wonderful dramas, long before he heard a voice and saw a vision and consecrated himself thereafter to the woman cause. Henrik Ibsen was no opportunist dealing out drops of heresy about the state of woman, heavily sugared to hide the bitter taste. This transcendant prophet, when once he saw the light, proclaimed the whole truth at once, without compromise, in one of the most remarkable plays ever written. A Doll's House shows the wrong done to womanhood down the ages and boldly states the remedy. Note this, you who assert that Ibsen tears down but does not reconstruct.

The woman of the play, Nora Helmar, is the ordinary woman, shaped first by her father for his joy and comfort and later handed over to a husband for the finishing touches. She has been a wife and mother many years when she discovers that they cared not a whit what she really was. Their only desire was to mould her into what they desired her to be. She realizes that she is neither wife nor mother in any true sense and leaves husband and children to go forth alone and find her true self.

Ibsen's clarion call to women in this play is, —"Release yourselves from the tyrannous duties imposed on you from without. Perform the one necessary duty, to know your own nature and its needs. Be yourself! Refuse all relations which do not take your true self into account!"

It was the first time in the history of things written and spoken, that a woman was declared to be intrinsically in herself the important thing and all accidental conditions and relations such as daughter, wife, mother or friends, dependent for their value on her freedom to know and be herself.

Revolutionary! Well, I should say it was! Even to-day, thirty years after A Doll's House was written, the most emancipated woman dares not claim the right to be considered solely as a human being, but pleads for a little more freedom that she may be a better wife or mother or power for social good.

A Doll's House has been presented in every civilized country of the world, and has been played more times and has earned more money than any drama ever written except a few of Shakespeare's plays. This is the answer to those superficial critics who assert that Ibsen's plays have no general appeal.

Ibsen's four "woman plays," so called—A Doll's House, Ghosts, Hedda Gabler and Rosmersholm—thrash out the whole woman question and show us the abyss that separates her apotheosis and her degradation. During the stress and storm that followed the revolutionary effect of Ibsen's plays, came that band of disciples and imitators whose dramas have set the fashion in "women of the play." Suderman, Hauptman, Maeterlinck, Brieux, Giacosa, D'Annunzio, Shaw, for great names, and a score of lesser dramatists, all permeated with the Ibsen spirit as to the estate of woman, have added their measure to the drama of to-day.

AS George Bernard Shaw truly prophesied in the Ibsen revolt, "No man will ever write plays after him as they wrote before him," even the most insignificant patcher-up of plays to-day has a new perspective on woman's relation to society.

So while the cheap, romantic plays and hodgepodge stuff dished up for the tired business man still cling lovingly to the irresponsible doll woman, all plays that have the slightest hint of a true appeal to the emotions, strike more or less surely, the new note of woman's separate individuality.

The great trouble in the theatre of to-day is that there is no woman note in its policy. Consider first that seventy-five per cent. of the money paid into the box offices of American theatres is paid by women. Women then may be said practically to support the American theatre. Yet there is no woman manager to select and dispose of the wares for sale. And no woman has a distinct, authoritative position in the stage directing or ordering of a theatre behind the scenes. You will instantly contend that women playwrights and women "stars" have some power and influence in shaping the policy of a theatre.

But the truth is that a woman may select any play that attracts her and a woman playright any treatment of a theme that inspires her, but the final consent is given by the man who furnishes the capital and theatre to produce the play.

It may be said in justice to the manager arbiter of the drama's fate that he wishes to find a play and actor suitable to women's tastes; for he knows full well that he is catering to women. But managers have an ingrained contempt for a woman's judgment and a conviction that they know more about what women patrons of the theatre want than any woman could ever know. So the actress plays the drama that the manager approves of and the woman playwright writes the play to suit his notions. The only women who have had even a semblance of influence in the theatre, are those actresses and playwrights who had the good fortune to have husbands or relatives who happened to be managers of theatres. Bernhardt, Rejane and Duse, stars of the first magnitude, will tell you that in order to control even partially their output of plays, they were obliged to become managers of theatres themselves.

GREAT as the contribution of the Drama has been, rivaling in its scope and power the tremendous impulse given the Feminist Movement by literature and the press, the greatest and best work done for women by the theatre is yet to be accomplished in the future. Women must insist on having a voice in the policy of the theatre both in the managerial office and in the more important work of the stage itself.

They must refuse to be told by men managers and critics and legislators what plays are fit and safe for them to witness. They must sound a warning note in a firm voice that they intend to judge for themselves and their children what amuses, uplifts and inspires them. And remember that in the world of Drama as in the realm of government and religion, women will never be invited to enter and share the power and glory. Women must capture their share that is being withheld from them. So first, there must be a Woman's Theatre. In it, woman can demonstrate that she can manage and shape the policy of theatres to her needs.

In a business that is financially supported by women, this seems a rational proposition. When a Woman's National Theatre is successfully accomplished, and woman has a voice in legislation, then a Federal Law can be passed creating a Secretary of Art and Science. Municipal theatres can then be established. The theatre will grow into a likeness of the thing it was invented for by the Greeks: a civic institution for the whole people.

## ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

BORN FEBRUARY 12, 1809.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.—I go for all sharing the privileges of the government who assist in bearing its burdens, by no means excluding women.

## A LITTLE PLAY HOUSE—WHY NOT?

BY
LILLAH ALSBURY PIRIE.

WHILE sitting in the Little Play House one evening I was attracted by this bit of conversation that went on between two women occupying the seats behind me:

"Do you know," said one, "I saw a splendid show last night, but of course it's going to be taken off."

"Why?" asked the other.

"Why! Because the men won't stand for it. It is an awful slam at them, and as most of the shows in town are run by men, you bet they don't want this one."

Now, as to what "show" in particular this established conviction referred, or, whether in this particular case the conviction was right, I do not know; but the more I thought about it the more I became impressed, not only with a familiar sense of having heard some such remark before, but also with the shades of truth contained in it. For had I not heard this verdict, or one like unto it, applied even to such splendid plays as "A Man's World" and "Ourselves," by Rachel Crothers? Plays that according to many able critics were deemed worthy of longer production.

Whether the reason suggested had anything to do with their removal I am not prepared to say, but as I sat in this tiny theatre with its limited capacity of seats, watching a play which, though to all intents and purposes may have been intended as a rebuke to the selfish sentimentality of the man in question, so gently had this rebuke been veiled that you could hardly see it at all—the thought came to my mind as to why could we not as women have a Little Play House of our own? not necessarily for women's plays alone, but at least where plays that were true and instructive might have a full share of presentation no matter whoever, or whatever they slammed.

Of course there are those who will say it might not pay and perhaps there are numerous reasons unbeknown to such an inexperienced mortal as myself to bear out this statement, but do theatres always pay anyhow? and what of the lectures and meetings now being held in halls and other buildings, and for which there is rent to pay, would that not help? to say nothing of the tea and refreshment—served between acts—dear to the hearts of most women and likely to reap a goodly return in itself if well managed.

Maybe others have thought of this question, and as I said before, it may be rather an impossible one; nevertheless as such it has often presented itself to me in connection with a movement as advanced as our own and in a country as great as this is.

# A Hymn For Equal Suffrage

By

PERCY MACKAYE

They have strewn the burning hearths of Man with darkness and with mire,
They have heaped the burning hearts of Man with ashes of desire,
Yet from out those hearts and hearths still leaps the quick eternal fire
Whose flame is liberty.

But the flame which once led deathward all the dazzled fighting hordes
Lights them now to living freedom from the bondage of their lords,
And our mothers are uprisen 'mid their sons to wrest the swords
From hands of tyranny.

For the freedom of the laborer is freedom from his toil,
And freedom of the citizen is right to share the soil,
And the freedom of our country is our loosing of the coil
That chokes posterity.

So we who wage our devious wars, in fastness and in fen,
Let us claim our common birthright in the living sun again,
Till the battle of the beasts becomes the reasoning of men,
And joy our destiny.

Let us march then, all together, not because our leaders call,
But at summons of the mighty soul of man within us all,
Men and women, equal comrades, let us storm the nation's wall
And cry, "Equality!"

For the vote that brings to woman and to man life's common bread,
Is mightier than the mindless gun that leaves a million dead;
And the rights of Man shall triumph where once men and women bled
When mothers of men are free.

## THE ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION.

IN her closing night in Washington a popular actress was making a charming farewell speech, interrupted constantly by applause and sympathetic laughter. Her most humorous remark, to judge from the merriment it aroused, was in explanation of her leaving. The statement that, having worked in stock company for forty-two almost continuous weeks, she was tired and needed a rest, evidently amused the audience greatly. They seemed unable to take seriously the assertion that an actress could be tired. Yet they must have known that that stock company, like many others, gives five matinees a week. An actress reports for rehearsal at 10 A. M., has about one-half hour for lunch, and one and one-half for dinner, reaching home at 11:30 or 12 P. M. Aside from Sundays and one free afternoon, she has ten hours daily in which to sleep, attend to personal needs, learn lines, invent business, and have gowns made for the next week's new play.

Not that actors are rebelling at the long hours their art often demands. But there are conditions against which they do rebel. Accustomed to think of stage life in terms of the incessant demand for a Maude Adams or of the fabulous sums made by a Forbes-Robertson, one finds it difficult to realize that for the rank and file, pay is so low in comparison with expenses and employment so irregular that many competent actors find it hard to make a living. Clara Morris' story of going about her work hungry for weeks, scoring a success, and creeping home to "a big piece of bread and a small piece of cheese" while her name was "floating over many a dainty restaurant supper," seems fastastically unreal, especially as months more of poverty followed. Yet things have grown worse rather than better since then. As the theatre has been placed on a broad business basis, as managers have organized, the intimate relations between manager and player have disappeared and actors have lost rights and privileges.

At present the theatre is a speculative business in which the rank and file are forced to share the risks without being allowed to share the profits. For instance, actors are paid for performances only. When a play fails, though the failure be no fault of the actors, they are paid for two or three performances instead of for the three or five weeks of rehearsals. Some actors have been in six openings—five failures—in one winter. Though working hard the entire season they could not possibly support themselves. Again a play may not appear even once, though it has been long rehearsed; or an actor may be dismissed during the last week of rehearsal. In either case, he receives no pay for three to five weeks' hard work. One girl rehearsing last spring for a play to be staged this fall, was pronounced satisfactory and engaged. The three summer months during which she might have looked for other winter engagements, passed. Then, in the fall, after a week's rehearsal, she was dismissed as incompetent, her place being taken by a friend of the manager, a girl who had been present watching the rehearsals all the time.

Such uncertainties are hard for the men; they are harder for the women, since it is now customary for actresses to provide their own wardrobe. These clothes they can in no case make themselves, for their wardrobe must not merely be in style, it must set the style, being made by the most expensive dressmakers. For a modern three-act play, no actress can hope to get her dresses for less than $500. Nor can she use them again. Even were they suitable to another play, an improbable supposition, her appearance in a dress for a single night would make its use in the same city impossible. The staging without extra pay, of extra matinees; the failure sometimes to pay transportation out of and back to New York; the beginning of rehearsals before the final act of a play is written, thus necessitating weeks of needless, unpaid-for rehearsals, are other grievances.

Now acting is a profession in which intolerable conditions show quickly in a deteriorating product. To meet, then, a situation menacing not merely to individual welfare, but to the quality of a great art, actors are at last organizing. Perhaps they have learned from their unpaid-for rehearsals, rehearsals for which the carpenters, scene-shifters, and other stage hands, being thoroughly unionized, are fully recompensed.

The Actors' Equity Association is holding conferences with the managers' organization. Their negotiations have been well received; favorable consideration is being given to their presentation of what they consider equitable:—transportation from and back to New York; two weeks' notice (or two weeks' pay) before dismissal; decision after one week's rehearsal as to competency (two weeks' employment or pay to be secured to those then pronounced competent, whether the play succeeds or not); security of two weeks' employment or pay for those engaged three months ahead; extra pay for extra matinees; security of additional employment or pay for extra rehearsals; the providing by the management of actresses' dresses; arbitration of disputes. Besides securing the aid of all in righting the grievance of one, they offer their members free legal aid in recovering damages not exceeding $500 and in drawing up contracts. The Association has had a phenomenal growth. Organized last spring, it numbers already over 1,000 members, among whom are scores of such prominent names as Henry Miller, Francis Wilson, Bruce McRae, Blanche Bates, Christie McDonald, and Laurette Taylor. And the list of members is rapidly growing.

—Sarah R. Parks.

# THE WOMAN'S NATIONAL THEATRE

BY
EDITH ELLIS.

**EDITH ELLIS**

*A playwright who is deeply interested in the suffrage movement*

WE are still Puritans. We Americans take our pleasures sadly, and a frank delight in beauty or the admission that work and business is not the end of life still appears to us foreign and dangerous. Suppression is our specialty. We spend our leisure in trying to annihilate the saloon, dance-halls, sensational movies and vice resorts. But how did they come to exist in such numbers? What was it that called them into being?

The money-makers know. They count the gains that the people spend in dissipation which would be more eagerly spent in enjoyment. We go on trying to bottle up our natural exuberance and are scandalized when it breaks loose in the form of vulgarity and license. We have free libraries, parks, schools, hospitals, prisons and insane asylums, and we ought to be "merry and bright"—but are we? Hardly! Rather a sad lot of folk when we are not on parade.

Every civilized country but ours has recognized the theatre as the chief source of the people's enjoyment, and the great engine of intellectual, artistic and social progress. In the United States we have no such institution. With us the playhouse is a private business, a box-office and factory combination with purely commercial ideals. As such it has been a stupendous success —for the *managers*—the people have not fared so well. Representative drama and the art of acting have languished. It has become a platitude even to mention this. We have all known it for years. We have even made attempts to get something better.

About ten years ago the National Art Theatre Society was formed, and within a year it had a membership of thousands. Editors from the Atlantic to the Pacific approved it and encouraged the society's project for the establishment of a National Theatre. Presently disagreements arose between the gentlemen at the head of the Society, and the result was the Woman's Auxiliary was abolished. As this wing of the society was doing nearly all the work the organization began to languish and soon expired.

A group of rich men then realized that though the society was defunct the desire for a National Theatre was still alive. They conceived and executed a generous plan and the "New Theatre" resulted. A wonderful and sumptuous building was erected with a stage and auditorium large enough to desolate the genius of a Cushman or a Salvini. Plays, players and directors, mostly from abroad, were employed. Society came for a time, and then the institution collapsed. A National Theatre had not been called into existence.

Then came an era of theatre clubs where plays were read and discussed. Drama leagues sprang up telling the people what plays were good to see, and those it were best to stay away from. "Little theatres" were built in the large cities for the presentation of unusual plays—usually *foreign*. These uprisings have created an audience ripe for a National Theatre in every large city of the Union. It is in recognition of the needs of such an audience that THE WOMAN'S NATIONAL THEATRE project has been advanced.

We want a truly American theatre where we can see plays about our own life and people acted by Americans. We do not want an endowed institution: for a theatre which cannot pay its own expenses does not justify its existence in the eyes of the practical American. We cannot look for a government institution: for as yet dramatic art receives no recognition as one of the people's necessities, and it forms no part of the politician's pork barrel.

Why a Woman's National Theatre? Because "although women do not always analyze, they do realize." Men *expect* women to make the ideal real. They have been doing it for years in religion, philanthropy and social reform; they are doing it in government as well. Most men agree that the art of this country is in the hands of the women, and its future rests with them. The stage at present is masculinized; that is why it is so over-sexed. We do not want to feminize it; we only want to inject the feminine half which is necessary to make a perfect whole.

Women form 75 per cent. of the audiences; they act, they write plays, yet the whole institution of the theatre is used to express a man's idea of what a theatre should be, what plays should be produced, what kind of actors should interpret parts. A man stage director tells the actresses how they should express the emotions of a woman in the play's situation. This is frequently as amusing as it is stupid. Imagine a woman stage director explaining to an actor what his emotions as a man should be. The whole machinery is in the hands of men and, however excellent their intentions may be, they cannot by their very nature see life from the woman's viewpoint. As life is made up of *both* sexes it is time that the art which most vitally depicts life should be interpreted through the ideals of both *men and women.*

THE Woman's National Theatre is incorporated. The Board of Directors are a number of highly trained and experienced women of the stage as well as several expert business women. No officer of the company receives stock except upon the full payment to the company. The shares are non-assessable. Eighty per cent. of all stock sold is deposited with a guarantee and trust company at the usual rate of interest, to remain there until a sufficient sum is raised to warrant the opening of a theatre.

If you have twenty-five dollars to invest, buy a share of stock. If you can't afford that, buy part of a share. If a dollar is all you can spare, become a Subscribing Member and the great thing is to get your friends to do the same. For we believe that if fifty thousand people will join in demanding a National Theatre, the thing is done.

Although we are organized on a business basis and with a view of making a profit for the investors, it is our hope that our efforts will ultimately lead to a Municipal Theatre. We are ready to do the pioneering to demonstrate that a native, democratic theatre at reasonable prices is a public need and can be self-supporting. If, after operating a Woman's National Theatre for five years, the municipality desires to take it over, it can do so by paying to the stockholders the amount of their investment plus the interest.

It is to the women who are doing so much to bring in a reign of justice by getting for their sisters the right to a voice in the government that we look largely for help to carry on this great project. For they realize that after the vote is won, the great task of humanizing ourselves goes on. We must still strive for a higher conception of life and the stage is the great engine of social influence. With a National Theatre holding the mirror up to our citizens, in spirit and in truth, it should play a great part in the civic life of our people.

## NOWADAYS.

IN his three act play *Nowadays,* as in his two preceding volumes of plays, *Embers* and *Tradition,* Mr. Middleton, according to his own admission, has "sought to reflect some spirit of the moment as expressed in the shifting standards of man and woman in relation to each other."

*Nowadays* is the first attempt by an American playwright to treat radically the economic phase of the woman question, a phase of which such plays as *Her Own Money* merely scratch the surface.

A double economic standard prevails in the family of *Nowadays.* Money, education and encouragement, are given to the boy, not because he is gifted or superior, but because he is a boy. The girl, who has unusual talent, forges ahead without help from her father until she outstrips the boy, converts her father and helps to free her mother from the crushing effect of an excessive self effacement.

Under the stimulus of the daughter's interest, the mother's self confidence returns, and the woman of fifty makes a brave fight to regain her lost powers.

If the mother is the central figure of the drama, the daughter Diana is its motive force. She laughs her way through antagonism and resistance and manages to reform the family because she is not a reformer.

Diana is wholly of the new, the father is wholly of the old. Between these two, in dramatic contrast, stands the mother, who belongs partly to the old order and partly to the new. It is the problem of transition, the tragedy of the middle-aged woman torn between the conflict of two generations. New impulses pull her forward, deep rooted instincts drag her back. Caught in the current of her daughter's enthusiasm she goes forward as far as she is able into the life Diana has determined to live. Her effort is not literally successful neither is it a failure. She gains a larger realization of self and a truer relation to a no longer misunderstanding husband.

In the author's preface he makes reference to his "masculine mind groping in the reactions of femininity." The feminine reader is bound to admit that in this feminist play Mr. Middleton has done some effective groping. He has shown us the modern family facing the future and weighted with traditions of the past. In this situation, the actual conditions which press upon wife and daughter are not veiled by the usual false sentimentality; they are revealed with insight and sympathy. *Nowadays* speaks for women in no uncertain tone.

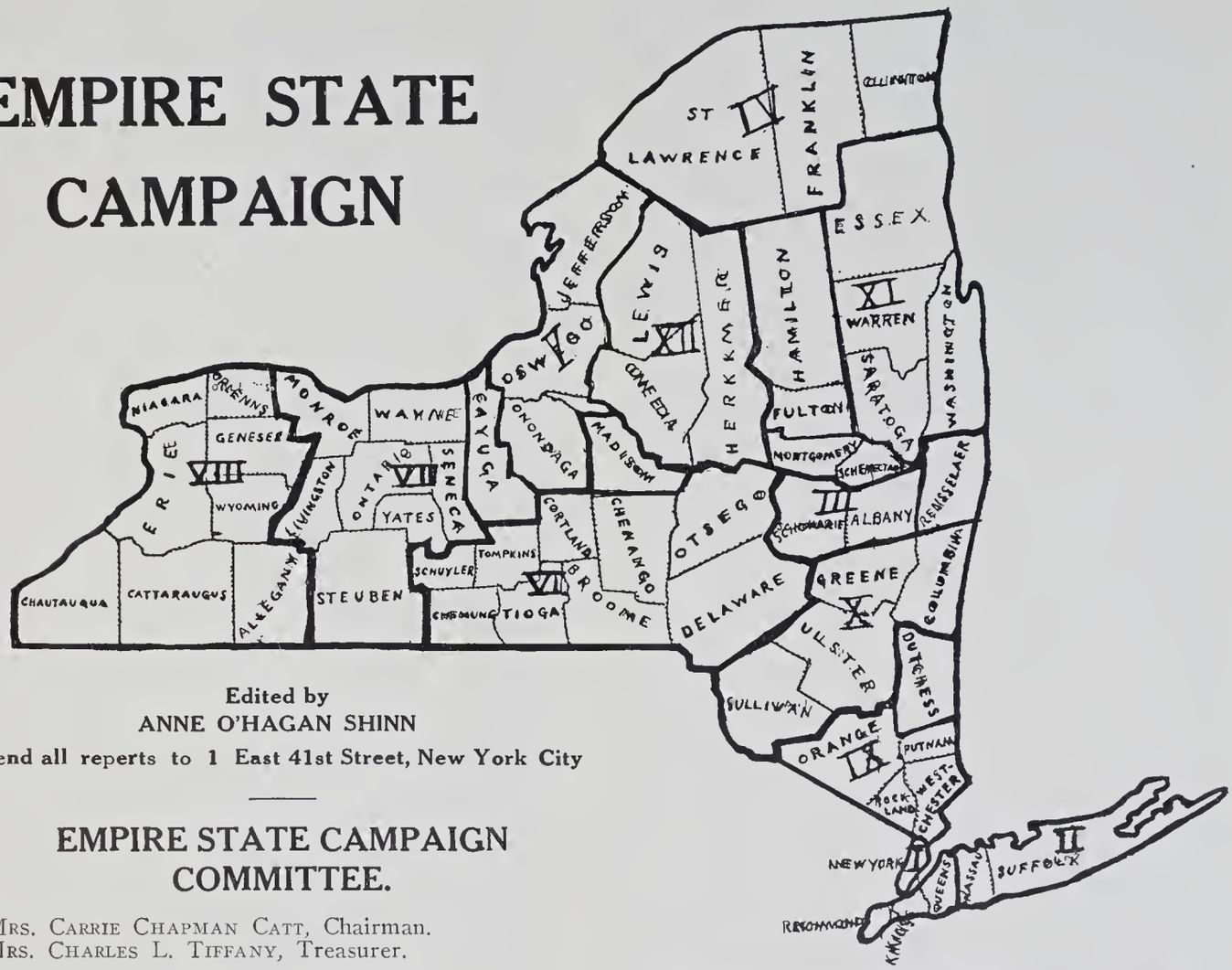
**Marie Jenney Howe.**

NOWADAYS. *By George Middleton. Published by Henry Holt and Co., N. Y. Price* $1.00.

"WOMAN suffrage in Wyoming is and has been an unqualified and universally recognized benefit and success, and there is no thought or suggestion of its abandonment, the only possible difference of opinion among our citizens on the subject being as to the extent to which it has influenced the legislation and administration of our public affairs."

—*Congressman F. A. Mondell of Wyoming.*

# EMPIRE STATE CAMPAIGN




**Edited by**
**ANNE O'HAGAN SHINN**
**Send all reperts to 1 East 41st Street, New York City**

## EMPIRE STATE CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE.

Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, Chairman.
Mrs. Charles L. Tiffany, Treasurer.

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Mrs. A. C. Clement, Chairman Seventh Campaign District, 302 Beckley Bldg., Rochester.
Mrs. F. G. Shuler, Chairman Eighth Campaign District, 238 Delaware Avenue. Buffalo.
Mrs. Carl Osterheld, Chairman Ninth Campaign District, 249 Warburton Avenue, Yonkers.
Mrs. Richard Aldrich, Chairman Tenth Campaign District, Barrytown, New York.
Miss Evanetta Hare, Chairman Eleventh Campaign District, Carl Bldg., Troy.

## CAMPAIGN DISTRICT CONFERENCES.

THE work of the Empire State Campaign Committee has begun with an enthusiasm and determination that promise success. Already the Conference and Schools planned by the committee have been held in six of the twelve campaign districts into which New York State has been divided—the Ninth, Tenth, Third, Eleventh, Fifth and Eighth. A meeting was held on January 6th at the home of Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, 2 West 86th Street, at which the up-State chairmen spoke of the work already done in their districts and of their plans and needs. The local conferences were arranged and the conduct of the campaign mapped out.

### NINTH DISTRICT; YONKERS. JANUARY 12TH-14TH.

THE Ninth District Conference, which may be said to have definitely opened the campaign, was held at Yonkers, on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, January 12th, 13th and 14th. Mrs. Carl Osterheld, the chairman, presided. It was opened by a reception to Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt and the sixty delegates sent by the assembly districts of Westchester, Rockland, Orange, Sullivan and Putnam counties—the territory embraced in this district.

The most propitious of all the promising features of this conference was the assurance of team-work during the next two years. The leaders of the eight assembly districts fully grasped and enthusiastically accepted Mrs. Catt's plan of campaign and started

working systematically, and together, instead of sporadically and separately. The four assembly districts of Westchester were fused with the four assembly districts in the three counties of Rockland, Orange and Sullivan across the river, making a unit for suffrage work. Their union will be more effective than any amount of unorganized ardor.

Two evening meetings and five school-conference sessions were held. At the reception on the first evening, Miss Jane Olcott, of the State Association, gave a talk on the "Evolution of Suffrage," illustrated by lantern slides. The second evening meeting was a public rally in Phillipsburg Hall, at which both Dr. Shaw and Mrs. Catt spoke, while Mrs. Arthur Livermore performed a difficult task of soliciting contributions, and secured pledges for $4,400, thus raising the Ninth District's share of the $40,000 State fund.

Mrs. Catt outlined propaganda methods to be used in the campaign. These include for each assembly district a week's exhibition and sale of literature, ribbons, maps, as well as of the campaign buttons, stamps, stationery, suffrage posters, banners and cartoons, which the art section of the Campaign Committee, under the chairmanship of Mrs. John Alexander, is engaged in producing.

A convention, preferably of two days, will be held in each assembly district to elect officers, train workers, and plan the summer campaign. A public evening meeting is recommended for each convention. The last fortnight of May has been designated as a period of especial enrollment activity. Mrs. Catt suggested that the ministers of each locality be asked to preach a suffrage sermon on the first Sunday in May.

The Conference voted to accept the invitation of the Newburg Association and to hold the 9th District parade in that city on June 6th. A monthly automobile tour of speakers through the district with outdoor meetings in the towns on the route will be inaugurated next summer.

Mrs. Catt's general theme was, "How to Win an Election District." In addition the following subjects were discussed: "Suffrage Arguments," led by Mrs. Livermore; "Assembly District Work," Mrs. Osterheld; "Press," Miss Sawyer; and "How to Make Your Point," Mrs. Henry Robinson. Reports were given by the leaders of the 8th Assembly District as follows: Westchester, 1st District, Mrs. Arthur Dunlevy, Yonkers; 2d, Mrs. Leigh French, New Rochelle; 3d, Mrs. M. L. Bacon, Tarrytown; 4th, Miss Adelaide Goan, Katonah; Orange, 1st District, Mrs. William Vanamee, Newburg; 2d, Mrs. P. V. D. Gott, Goshen; Rockland, Mrs. H. D. Rose, New City; Sullivan, Mrs. R. J. Muller, Monticello.

### TENTH DISTRICT; POUGHKEEPSIE. JANUARY 15TH-17TH.

THE Conference and School of the Tenth District was held in Poughkeepsie on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, January 15th, 16th and 17th. The first session was held on Thursday afternoon, Mrs. C. J. Hall, first vice-president of the Poughkeepsie Equal Suffrage League, making the address of welcome in the absence of Mrs. Richard Chandler Aldrich, president of the League, and chairman of the district. Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt followed with an explanation of the general purpose of the Conference, and Mrs. Frances Maule Bjorkman and Miss Eleanor Garrison, the two organizers in the district, and Miss Eleanor Erving gave brief addresses. In the evening a reception was held at the Wagner Inn at which Mrs. D. W. Wilbur, wife of the Mayor of Poughkeepsie, Mrs. Hinckley, Mrs. Hall and Miss Mary Swain Wagner of the Poughkeepsie League received with Mrs. Catt.

On Friday morning the session was devoted to a discussion of methods of work led by Mrs. Catt. In the afternoon Miss Mary Garrett Hay spoke on the subject "How to Win," Mrs. Arthur Livermore of Yonkers on "Suffrage Arguments," and Mrs. Bjorkman on "Literature and How to Use It." A big mass meeting was held in the evening at Trinity Church, Mrs. Catt presiding, and Rev. Anna Howard Shaw making the principal address. Despite a heavy snowstorm the large church was filled, and a collection of over $35 was taken up.

On Saturday the Conference on Methods of Work, led by Mrs. Catt, was continued, the students of the school joining freely in the discussion. The afternoon session was in the nature of a speaking class, and was made up of ten minute speeches by the students who had been attending the school, on the subject, "Why Should the Empire State Extend Votes to Women?"

In the attendance at the school, Dutchess County was well represented, but there was only one representative from Ulster, and no students at all from any of the other three counties composing the district.

An excellent beginning was made towards the raising of the $1,600 for which this district will be responsible.

### THIRD DISTRICT; ALBANY. JANUARY 19TH-21ST.

THIS Conference was held on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, January 19th, 20th, and 21st, Brief reports of its results will be published in the next VOTER. The program as arranged included reports from the assembly district leaders, Mrs. Edward S. Deevey, Mrs. Edward V. Colbert, Mrs. Joseph Gavit and Mrs. Humphrey; a discussion of methods of work conducted by Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, Miss Florence S. Roberts, the district organizer; Mrs. Frances M. Bjorkman of the National Headquarters staff, and Miss Mary Garrett Hay, chairman New York City Woman Suffrage Party; mass meetings addressed by Mrs. Catt and the Rev. Anna Howard Shaw; receptions to Mrs. Catt and Dr. Shaw at the homes of Mrs. James H. Perkins and Mrs. Gardner Leonard respectively, and a meeting at which local speakers were to answer anti objections in five-minute speeches.

### ELEVENTH DISTRICT; TROY. JANUARY 22D-24TH.

THE program for this Conference, which was held at the Y. M. C. A. Hall, First Street, Troy, included the registration of delegates from the assembly districts of Rensselaer, Saratoga, Washington, Warren, Essex and Clinton counties; their presentation to Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt; a discussion of school methods, directed by Mrs. Catt; instruction in plans for conducting meetings and general work, led by Miss Mary Garrett Hay, Miss Florence Roberts and Mrs. Frances M. Bjorkman; a mass meeting with Miss Evanetta Hare in the chair, and with speeches by Mrs. F. A. Silliman and Mrs. Catt; a public meeting, with five minute speeches by local suffragists; a reception to Mrs. Catt and Dr. Shaw and a mass meeting with Mrs. Catt as chairman and Dr. Shaw as principal speaker.

### FIFTH DISTRICT; SYRACUSE. JANUARY 26TH-28TH.

THE program for this Conference, a brief report of the results of which will be published in the next VOTER, was as follows: First meeting, with Miss Harriet May Mills presiding, and addresses of welcome by Mrs. E. T. DeSilga, president of the county W. C. T. U.; the Hon. F. C. Dawley, Grange Master of Fayetteville; Mr. E. L. Robertson, president of the Syracuse Men's League for Woman Suffrage; Mrs. Frederick R. Hazard, president of the Syracuse Women's Political Union, and Mrs. William F. Canough, president of the Syracuse Political Equality Club; a reception to Mrs. Catt, the delegates to the Conference, club members and friends, by Mrs. Edward S. Jenney; reports from the assembly district leaders; Suffrage School of Methods, conducted by Mrs. Catt and ad-

dressed by Miss Eleanor Erving, Miss Mary D. Hopkins of Clinton, Mrs. Bill of Utica, Miss Sarah Wadsworth of Auburn, and Mrs. MacGregor Phillips of Lowville; public meetings addressed by Mrs. Fanny Cochran, Dr. Lavinia Davis of Oneida, Miss Arria S. Huntington, Miss Lucy C. Watson of Utica, Miss Jeanette Moffett of Watertown, Miss Florence Luscumb of Boston, Mass., and Dr. Helen B. Owens of Ithaca; public meeting with the Honorable Louis Will, Mayor of Syracuse, making a speech of welcome for the city; the Honorable Luther W. Mott of Oswego, an address of welcome for "some of the voters;" Dr. Horace A. Eaton, of Syracuse University, for the educational interests, and Mrs. Catt replying to these; and a closing public meeting with Mr. Benjamin S. Wiles as speaker, on "Woman's Protection Under the Law," and an address by the Rev. Anna Howard Shaw.

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### EIGHTH DISTRICT; BUFFALO. JANUARY 29TH-31ST.

THE program as arranged for this district included public meetings and school sessions addressed by Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, the Rev. Anna Howard Shaw, Mrs. Dexter P. Rumsey, Mrs. Melvin P. Porter, Mrs. Eli T. Hosmer, Miss Eleanor Erving, Mrs. Helen Z. M. Rodgers, Mrs. Anna C. Etz, Mrs. Frank J. Shuler, chairman of the Eighth Campaign District; Mrs. John F. Lewis and Miss Helen Probst Abbott; and the reports of assembly district leaders, Mrs. Roxana B. Burrows, Mrs. F. J. Tone, Mrs. Carrie Ballintine, Mrs. Verna H. Haley, Mrs. Hetty Sherwin, Mrs. Nellie L. Erb, Mrs. S. C. Sherwin, Mrs. William Johnson, Miss Sarah L. Truscott, Mrs. James Van Inwagen, jr., Mrs. Dexter Rumsey, Mrs. John B. McNeill, Mrs. Melvin P. Porter, Mrs. J. Kudlicka, Mrs. Francis Servass, Mrs. L. Orr and Mrs. F. W. Kendall.

### SEVENTH DISTRICT; ROCHESTER. FEBRUARY 3RD-7TH.

PRESIDING officer, Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt; Honorary Chairman, Mrs. Jean Brooks Greenleaf; Chairman on Hospitality, Mrs. Mary T. L. Gannett; Registrar, Mrs. Emma B. Sweet; Press Chairman, Mrs. Anna C. Etz. February 2, 3 P. M. to 6 P. M., and February 3, 9 A. M. to 10:30 A. M., registration; meetings, school conferences, reports of delegates, drills in debate, discussion of methods, teas, etc.; the public program ending with a mass meeting on Friday evening, February 6, in Convention Hall, and the school sessions on Saturday morning, February 7.

### SIXTH DISTRICT; ITHACA. FEBRUARY 9TH-14TH.

THE Conference in Ithaca will include, in addition to the regulation sessions of the suffrage school, the conferences with the assembly district leaders and the public meetings with speeches, a musical and dramatic evening arranged by the Ithaca Conservatory of Music, at which "How the Vote Was Won" will be presented.

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### NOTES FROM THE EIGHTH DISTRICT.

MRS. FRANK SHULER, district leader, held two meetings in East Aurora during January, speaking once before the Mothers' Club and again to the election district leaders. In Dunkirk she spoke at a meeting in the library building, Mrs. Rieger being chosen to head the campaign work for the town. Two meetings were held in Silver Creek, one in the evening in the Presbyterian Church, and one in the afternoon at the home of Mrs. Nellie L. Erb, the leader for the Second Assembly District of Chautauqua County.

There have been meetings this month in nine wards in Buffalo, including one in the 21st Ward, where the members of the Men's Club of the North United Presbyterian Church were hosts, and all but four in the audience signed enrollment slips. Mrs. Shuler spoke in one of the large city churches, the Calvary Presbyterian, in a series of Sunday evening lectures.

The Equal Franchise League and the Junior League have met each week at the Buffalo headquarters, and the headquarters executive board has met twice, besides arranging a large and enthusiastic inspirational meeting at the home of the newly-elected president, Mrs. Dexter P. Rumsey. Pledges for money, automobile service and time for campaign work were made, and there were talks by Mrs. Rumsey, Mrs. Shuler, Mrs. Melvin P. Porter and Miss Florence King of the Equal Franchise Society of New York, who has placed a suffrage library in each county of the district.

## STARS, MANAGERS AND DRAMATISTS IN A SUFFRAGE BIRTHDAY PARTY.

EACH year the New York State Woman Suffrage Association celebrates by one party the birthday of two of its patron saints, one happily canonized while she is yet with us—Susan B. Anthony and Dr. Anna Howard Shaw. Their birthdays fall upon February 14th and 15th respectively, and this year the birthday party will be held on February 16th, as the 15th falls on Sunday. The festivity takes a new form this season. It will be a dramatic tea and fête in the grand ballroom of the new Hotel Biltmore. Details of the program will be found on page 31, at the beginning of the calendar for February.

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### REPORT OF THIRD ASSEMBLY DISTRICT, WESTCHESTER,

**Mrs. Marshal L. Bacon, Leader.**

DOBBS FERRY has the honor of opening the first headquarters in this district. Mrs. Joseph Walker, Mrs. Jerome Bradley and Mrs. Herbert Carpenter were the moving spirits in the enterprise, and they were enthusiastically backed by the Hudson River League. Mrs. Henry Villard, Mrs. Arthur Livermore and Judge Daly spoke at the successful opening on January 10th. Other meetings are scheduled.

Dr. Anna Shaw spoke before a crowded audience in Tarrytown on January 15th. Work in this town is going steadily forward under the guidance of the Tarrytown Equal Franchise Association. Monthly meetings are held and much quiet canvassing is being done.

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## THE "HIKE" TO ALBANY.

THE New Year was ushered in with the annual pilgrimage to Albany, the purpose of which was to build up public sentiment in favor of a law permitting women to watch at the polls throughout the State. New Year's morning found a group of earnest men and women starting forth on a walk of 163 miles along the west shore of the Hudson. General Rosalie Jones gave the signal to Bugler Milton Wend, who chose to spend his few days' vacation from Columbia University by thus helping the Cause, and the Army was off, forging ahead through snow and ice, rain and hail, wind and frost, with nothing but conviction and faith for their source of strength. Among those whe walked for a day or two were: Mr. and Mrs. Kearns and their eight-year-old daughter Serina; Miss Portia Willis, Mrs. Sophia Kremer, Miss Rose Livingston, Mrs. Geo. Wend of Albany, Miss Augusta Richter. Others joined the marchers for short distances at Catskill, Newburg, Kingston, etc.

Speeches were made at Nyack, Cornwall, Marlboro, Ravena and Coxsackie by the three pilgrims who walked the entire distance, in spite of their physical weariness. Average miles per day were twenty-five.

The entrance into Albany was worth all the hardships of the trip. General Rosalie Jones, followed by Col. Ida Craft and the "Little Corporal," Martha Klatschken, in spite of the fact that they had walked sixteen miles that morning with but a short rest at Kenwood, led the parade, for that is what they did for Albany by their walking, gave it its first parade. Mrs. George Wend of the Political Equality Association, secured a fife and drum corps, and with banners flying, the line wound itself slowly up to the Capitol. All Albany was out; work was temporarily suspended. Into the Assembly hall filed the Pilgrims in their picturesque brown cloaks, and a very important fact was ascertained. Assemblymen are men and very human men at that, for, in spite of the fact that it was the first afternoon of the session, matters of government were sidetracked and the gentlemen gave full vent to their curiosity. General Jones had those Assemblymen whose women constituents had marched with the Army paged, and they were urgently urged to help secure the Watchers' Bill. The Army made a call on Governor Glynn, who gave them a cordial interview, accepting a hat band with "Votes for Women" inscribed upon it from Miss Klatschken. The lantern which had lighted the Army on its night marches figured conspicuously in the Albany parade, and even Governor Glynn enjoyed the reply which the General made to his query: "What's the idea of it?" "Looking for an honest statesman." Tired but happy in their achievement, the three Pilgrims accepted the kind hospitality of Mrs. Wend at her country home at Castleton-on-Hudson, where they stayed until Friday, when they returned to their homes.

## CLUB NOTES.

THE new club at Lowville is doing splendidly, writes Mrs. Phillips, the president. Mrs. Holt is presiding when Mrs. Phillips is away, and the membership is growing.

Mrs. and Miss Luscomb of Boston are giving a few weeks to the work in Onondaga County. Miss Luscomb is speaking most acceptably to many organizations in Syracuse and to the factory men at noon. On Friday she met the captains of the Second Assembly District at the home of the leader, Mrs. Bump.

Syracuse is continuing its weekly food sales under the chairmanship of Mrs. Persons with fine results in revenue.

The Waterloo Club continues to prosper. At the last meeting there were five new applications for membership. Miss Bertha A. Peck is the president. She founded the club some years ago and her enthusiasm never ebbs.

The Seneca County Pomona Grange endorsed a suffrage resolution by a large majority at its last meeting. Cayuga, Delaware and Dutchess Pomonas have also reported like action.

## LONG ISLAND NOTES.

MISS JANE OLCOTT, who has been giving illustrated suffrage lectures on Long Island with the aid of a lantern outfit, reports an amusing contretemps at Sayville, where Fireman's Hall was inadvertently rented to both the Suffrage Association and the Fishermen's Association for the same evening. The suffrage entertainment was given.

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*The Suffolk Bulletin,* published at Huntington, L. I., devoted much of a recent issue to suffrage, printing opinions favorable to votes for women from local clergymen, judges, assemblymen and other men prominent in the affairs of the county. *The Long Islander* also had a similar issue.

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The active Equal Suffrage League of Port Washington has leased rooms in which are combined a women's exchange and suffrage headquarters.

## SUSAN B. ANTHONY.

**BORN, FEBRUARY 15, 1820**

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ONE election day forty years ago Susan B. Anthony walked into a polling booth in Rochester, New York, and put a vote in a ballot box. She did it to test the Constitution of the United States, which defines citizenship as "all persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof."

She was tried for illegal voting and fined one hundred dollars and costs of trial.

Thus began one of the first conspicuous efforts to gain political expression for woman, a movement that has gained followers every year, while calumny and ridicule have but increased its zeal, and it will continue militant and courageous till this Constitution, which can be interpreted to suit any whim of authority, shall have an amendment that will declare women to be "persons" with a right to vote.

The spirit of revolt as shown in the action of this splendid woman is abroad in the land.

A new generation of women is imbued with Susan B. Anthony's purpose to vote for the right as they see it, and help make the laws that rule the lives of their children.—*Arthur Young in Life.*

## WIDOWS.

WISCONSIN is the nineteenth State to pass a mothers' pension bill. Seven out of the ten woman-suffrage States are on the roll of honor, while less than a third of the other States have recognized their duty to the widow with dependent children, although it is just possible that the feminine household veteran renders as much service to the State as the soldier. Is it not strange that, while the ballot so satisfies a female voter's heart that she has no emotion left for husband, home and offspring, where she resides motherhood should receive much practical consideration?—OREOLA W. HASKELL *in Judge.*

# THE WOMAN SUFFRAGE PARTY

THE New Year was celebrated at Headquarters by a reception to Dr. Katherine B. Davis, the new Commissioner of Correction for New York City. Dr. Davis, the first woman to hold such a high public office in the city administration, is a suffragist, born and bred. Her appointment has been a source of great satisfaction to the women of New York. Indeed, even the Antis claim her appointment as a victory for themselves.

The house was open all the afternoon and hundreds of visitors came to greet Dr. Davis and share in the festivities. As the tea was held on New Year's Day, hoping to revive the old Knickerbocker custom of celebrating the New Year with calls, the refreshments had a "Dutch" flavor, Miss Eleanor Van Alstyne, Mrs. Carr Van Anda, Miss Grace Collins, Mrs. Robert Adamson, Mrs. Ralph McKee, Mrs. Melbert Cary, Mrs. Charles Winch and Mrs. Thayer Iaccaci served at the tea tables. The songs and recitations of Miss Clara Alexander, who has recently returned from London, were a charming feature of the afternoon.

In announcing Dr. Davis' appointment, Mayor Mitchel said:

*"Dr. Davis has been requested to come into the administration not because she is a woman, but because she has the training, the experience and point of view that I desire for the Commissioner of Correction."*

Suffragists have cause for rejoicing that the new Mayor honors ability where he finds it and regards the accident of sex as of secondary importance. When this viewpoint extends to the public schools, hospitals and other public institutions it will revolutionize present conditions and women will realize that at last they have broken into the human race.

## A PIONEER SUFFRAGIST.

THE death of Mrs. Lillie Devereux Blake, one of the pioneer. suffragists of New York, marks the passing of the heroic era in suffrage work and the beginning of the period of realization. Those who understand Mrs. Blake's service to her generation appreciate that to-day, many who scarcely know her name are reaping the fruit of her labors. She was widely known as a writer and speaker, but her great work was for the welfare of women.

It was Mrs. Blake who secured police matrons for New York, whose efforts brought about school suffrage and women's eligibility to civil service lists. It was she who worked for legislation securing equal guardianship and the right of a married woman to make her own will. The work which she began in 1886 for equal pay for women teachers paved the way for the great victory of the Interborough Association.

Mrs. Blake organized the Legislative League to promote the political, legal and industrial welfare of women, the Society for Political Study to train women for public life, and the New York City Mothers' Club to further the interests of children. In 1870 she began to work actively for woman suffrage, and for many years was president of the New York State Woman Suffrage Association.

On January 11th, a memorial service was held in the Church of the Messiah, at which our city chairman, Miss Mary Hay, presided. Many of those who had been associated with Mrs. Blake paid tribute to her life, which illustrated the consecration of a great spirit to a great ideal.

## LOTS OF WORK FOR THE NEW HOUSEKEEPER

(**Courtesy of the Tribune**)—*Boardman Robinson*

## BROOKLYN'S MASS MEETING

The 3d Assembly District of Brooklyn gave practical evidence of its energy in the big mass meeting held in the Music Hall of the Academy of Music on the evening of January 12th. The affair was arranged by Mrs. Charles H. Winslow, leader of the district, assisted by Mrs. Wm. H. Rorke and Mrs. Joseph C. Hale; sub-committees attended to the various details and a corps of ushers seated the guests. Mrs. H. Edward Dreier, borough chairman, presided at the meeting, which was so large that every seat was filled.

The speakers were Dr. Anna Howard Shaw, Hon. Bourke Cockran, and Judge John Sherwin Crosby. Dr. Shaw was in happiest vein, and delighted her hearers with her witty and forceful address. Mr. Cockran made his début as a suffrage speaker, and advocated a real democracy with women included with men in the electorate. Judge Crosby, a staunch supporter of the suffrage cause, made an eloquent address. A pleasing feature of the meeting was the organ recital given by Prof. Charles Beck, and the singing of "America" by the entire audience. After the meeting Mrs. Dreier announced that about $800 had been netted for the district.

The meeting reflects great credit upon the officers and members of the district, and shows what can be accomplished by team work.

## MRS. PRISCILLA HACKSTAFF.

IN the death of Mrs. Priscilla Hackstaff, the suffrage movement loses a valued friend and advocate. She was one of the pioneers of the cause in Brooklyn and was known for her many activities in behalf of women. Mrs. Hackstaff was one of those who worked for the New York State Constitutional Convention in 1894, she was the first president of the Bedford Equality League and was for some time treasurer of the New York City Federation of Women's Clubs. She will be greatly missed by her many friends and fellow workers.

## AN AUTHOR'S EVENING AT COOPER UNION.

THE Twenty-fifth Assembly District, Manhattan, has again demonstrated its talent for doing something new in suffrage work. This time it was an Author's Evening, with a program of well-known writers and an auction sale of autograph books and manuscripts. The meeting was arranged by Mrs. Paula Jakobi and held in the auditorium of Cooper Union. Although the weather man pronounced it the coldest January 12th ever experienced in New York City, there was a large and very enthusiastic audience.

William Hard, a writer who has contributed much to the literature of the woman movement was chairman of the evening. Edwin Markham read a poem, "How Jacques Kept His Bargain"; Will Irwin made "Some Remarks" which bore a strong family resemblance to a regular suffrage speech; Lincoln Steffins discussed "Women As Human Beings" and Percy Mackaye read an original "Hymn to Equal Suffrage." This song is set to the tune of the Battle-Hymn of the Republic and it is hoped that it may become the campaign hymn. Those who read it in THE VOTER will appreciate Mr. Mackaye's service in giving us such great and stirring lines.

Charlotte Perkins Gilman's story of "Two Storks" made a great appeal as did W. E. Burghardt Du Bois' poem, "The Woman in Black." Ellis O. Jones of *Life* proved that we have at least one friend on the only humorous paper which opposes our movement. Arturo Giovannitti's labor poem of "The Lost Gospel" made a striking climax to the program.

Marie Jenney Howe and Frederic C. Howe auctioned the books, which contained autographs and suffrage sentiments. On the whole it was one of the most enjoyable suffrage events of this year and the Twenty-fifth District is to be congratulated upon a well-earned success.

### DANCING FOR SUFFRAGE.

OUR friends of the Men's League for Woman Suffrage scored a victory in their First Voters' Dance, given at the Masonic Temple, on Lafayette Avenue, Brooklyn, on January fifteenth. There were many hundreds of people present from both sides of the river. Everybody danced everything, from a two-step down to a decorous tango. Exhibition dances were given by Hilda Beyer, and by a group of pretty girls who wore the League blue and yellow in a Grecian costume, dancing the "Spirit of Victory." Miss Olive Vine and George Seabury gave an idealized tango and turkey trot, winning the approval of the Rev. John Howard Melish. Everything went right from start to finish. The committee, James Latimer Robinson, Ward Melville and R. C. Beadle, are to be thanked and congratulated.

## THÉ DANSANT

If suffrage divides families, as some assert, dancing must have the effect of reuniting them, for a great many of the tickets for the Thé Dansant and Bridge, given at the Astor on January 22d, for the benefit of the Borough of Manhattan Woman Suffrage Party, were sold to married couples and family parties. The Party women brought their husbands and the Men's League men brought their wives.

Among those who were present were Mrs. Herbert Carpenter, Mr. Frederick Greene, Mr. William Amos, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Knoblauch, Mr. and Mrs. Edgerton Parsons, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Tiffany, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Hapgood, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Boissevan, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Stratton, Mr. and Mrs. George Albert Legg, and Mr. and Mrs. Montagu Glass.

### FOR THE CAMPAIGN FUND.

UNDER the direction of Mrs. Balch, chairman of the Hospitality Committee of the Woman Suffrage Party, two very successful benefit card parties have been given at Headquarters. Boxes of *Votes for Women* candy served as prizes. These card parties will be continued through February as announced in the calendar.

"THE right of suffrage is justified by every natural right; cannot be denied by conscientious, thoughtful, studious men who desire to deal justly with all human beings alike. I greatly desire to see these rights established in order to raise in dignity and power the mothers of this nation."

—*Senator Robert L. Owen, of Oklahoma, in LaFollette's Magazine.*

## THE BOROUGH CONVENTIONS

### MANHATTAN

Every assembly district of Manhattan was largely represented at the Borough Convention held at Party Headquarters, East 34th Street, on January 20th. Mrs. James Lees Laidlaw presided, and after routine business had been transacted, presented the speakers of the evening. Mrs. Frderick Nathan made a most interesting address on the suffrage from an international point of view, and emphasized the measure of rights accorded women in monarchical countries, and in the land of pure democracy, our own, to the disadvantage of the latter. Mrs. Charles A. Beard, an active member of the Congressional Union, declared "our question now is purely one of politics. Our friends, the politicians, who would put us off, use sex antagonism and the disruption of the home as a mere blind; they have really no belief in anything of the sort." Miss Sarah R. Parks gave the workingwomen's view of suffrage. Mrs. Ida Harris and Mrs. E. Lerner, district leaders from the East Side, made forcible speeches setting forth the difficulties under which they worked, and Mrs. Harris excited laughter by her recital of personal encounter with the Tammany tiger.

By a wise arrangement, the borough has been divided into north, central and south districts, and a vice-chairman for each was elected. The entire ticket chosen was: Mrs. James Lees Laidlaw, chairman; Mrs. Robert Adamson, vice-chairman, north; Mrs. J. Frederic Gillette, vice-chairman, central; Miss L. L. Dock, vice-chairman, south; Miss Cora Van Norden, recording secretary; Mrs. Frederic Nathan, corresponding secretary; director, Mrs. Marie Jenney Howe. The office of treasurer is to be filled later.

Mrs. Charles L. Tiffany, former recording secretary, declined a renomination on account of demands upon her time by the College Women's League, of which she is president, and by her duties as treasurer of the Campaign Committee. Mrs. J. Hedges Crowell, borough treasurer, was unable to continue in office by reason of ill-health. A resolution of thanks to Mrs. Tiffany and Mrs. Crowell for past service was unanimously passed by the meeting.

Mrs. Adamson, new vice-chairman, is the wife of Fire Commissioner Adamson, who is himself an ardent suffragist; Mrs. Gillette, vice-chairman, central, has been the efficient leader of the 12th Assembly District; Miss L. L. Dock, vice-chairman, south, as leader of

the 2d Assembly District, has been instrumental in working up active suffrage sentiment on the lower East Side. Miss Cora Van Norden, the new secretary, is well known as a social worker and for her interest in the work of the Salvation Army. At the close of the speaking newly elected officers of the borough and districts were presented to the audience by Mrs. Laidlaw.

## BROOKLYN

THE Brooklyn Borough Convention was held in the Johnston Building, on Flatbush Avenue, at 8 o'clock, Mrs. Charles Winslow, leader of the 3d Assembly District, presiding.

Mrs. Edward Dreier reported the work of the year, Mrs. F. L. Cranford reported the finances of the borough and Mrs. Frank Cothren spoke on "The Needs of the Future." Mrs. Barker, chairman of the resolutions committee, presented the following resolutions: The first, that a resolution expressing the sympathy of the Convention be sent to the family of Mrs. Hackstaff; the second, that a vote of thanks be given the borough officers for their genuine and efficient service during the past year.

The Convention was attended by 250 or more members of the Party, 134 of whom were delegates. The following officers were elected: Chairman, Mrs. H. Edward Dreier; vice-chairman, Mrs. Frank Cothren; recording secretary, Miss Anna Wilbur; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Herbert Warbasse; treasurer, Mrs. Frederick Cranford; director of the borough, Mrs. Cornelia K. Hood.

## RICHMOND.

THE Richmond Borough Convention was held at 115 Davis Avenue, West New Brighton, at 3 P. M. The officers elected were: Chairman, Mrs. William G. Willcox; vice-chairman, Mrs. W. C. Walser; recording secretary, Miss Clara Banks; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Charles Earle Simonson; treasurer, Miss Sarah L. Banks, and for director of the borough, Mrs. Sidney A. Reeve.

## QUEENS.

THE Queens Borough Convention was held at the home of Mrs. Alfred J. Eno, Jericho Road, January 20th, at 3:30 P. M. All the officers were re-elected, with the exception of the treasurer, who is succeeded by Mrs. Paul Wolfskehl, Flushing Avenue, Hollis.

Mrs. Joseph Fitch, 118 Amity Street, was chosen the director of the borough for the year, Mrs. C. P. Hamilton for board of elections, Mrs. H. Ecob for resolutions committee, Mrs. Cora P. Hamilton for committee on enrollment, and Mrs. C. Morrison for Congressional committee..

## BRONX

THE Bronx Convention was held at the residence of Mrs. Morris, 2780 Pond Place, January 20th. The following officers were elected: Chairman, Mrs. J. Jay McKelvey; vice-chairman, Mrs. William Morris; secretary, Mrs. Peter A. Sheil; treasurer, Mrs. York; director of the borough, Mrs. Henrietta Seeley.

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♣ ♣ ♣

## FROM THE ASSEMBLY DISTRICTS

**Edited by Adaline W. Sterling**

## THE DISTRICT CONVENTIONS.

If evidence is needed that the suffrage movement is no longer a matter of academic discussion, but rather a question of practical politics, the sixty-three assembly district conventions held in Greater New York on January 13th furnish the proof. If the Woman Suffrage Party needed justification for its plan of work, it is to be found in these same conventions. For each gathering means *organization*—organization patterned on that of the great political parties, the same machinery to reach the voters, practical politics without the concomitant of selfish motive.

So in each assembly district on the same day, earnest women assembled in convention, noted results already accomplished, planned vigorous work and chose their leaders for another year. In the greater number of the districts no change of officers was made, in other districts, for reasons of declination or transfer of work, new leaders were chosen, bringing fresh workers into the field.

Among the new leaders is Mrs. Ida Harris, of the 2d Assembly District. Mrs. Harris is a lifelong resident of the district, and has been a faithful and valuable assistant to Miss Dock in suffrage activity. It is reported that Mrs. Harris knows everybody in her district and is the one suffragist before whom the stoutest Tammanyites, even Tom Foley, bows in admiration.

Another acquisition is Miss Frances Peters in the 15th District, a well-known social worker who has been connected with the Municipal League and other organizations. Then in the 12th District Mrs. Florence Howe Hall, daughter of the revered Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, has taken up Mrs. Gillette's work. Mrs. Hall naturally is a lifelong suffragist, and was for seven years president of the N. J. Woman Suffrage Association, and is now its honorary president. As a club woman and a facile writer Mrs. Hall has attained enviable reputation,. In the vice-leader of the 12th District Mrs. Hall has valuable aid in the person of Mrs. Joseph Talbot Maclean, a graduate of the Women's Medical College of Philadelphia, although not in practice, who is also well known in social and literary circles.

Among other new comers are Mrs. Brewer of Richmond, Miss Collins and Mrs. Orr of Brooklyn, Mrs. McCormick, Mrs. Smith and Mrs. De Pinna of Queens and Mrs. Wagner, Mrs. Davey and Mrs. Flaherty of the Bronx.

Miss Dock, former leader of the 2d A. D., becomes field worker and organizer for the lower East Side, also Borough Vice-Chairman, and Mrs. Gillette, of the 12th, has been elected one of the vice-chairmen of Manhattan Borough.

## MANHATTAN.

**5th Assembly District.**

Mr. Edwin O. Perry of Greenwich House, was accorded a hearing at the regular monthly meeting of the 5th Assembly District Democratic Club on January 8th. Senator James D. McClelland introduced the speaker, who was most courteously received by the two hundred members present, and several supporters were won for the cause.

**6th Assembly District.**

An interesting meeting was held at the Progressive Club, 106 Avenue C, on Wednesday evening, January 14th. The district leader, Mrs. Esther Lerner, presided, and Miss Mary G. Hay, Miss Martha Klatschken and Mr. Cushman were speakers. The enrollments taken included everyone present in the audience, to the number of one hundred.

**11th Assembly District.**

At the convention held on the 13th of January at Hartley House, all the officers of the district were unanimously re-elected. The district was at home to its friends and members at a tea at Headquarters on Wednesday afternoon, the 15th, from three to six.

**12th Assembly District.**

The Annual Convention, held on January 13th, marked the retirement of Mrs. J. Frederick Gillette from the leadership of the district. The treasurer's report showed that about $300 had been expended in suffrage work during the year, with a good balance remaining. The financial statement is testimony of Mrs. Gillette's energy and devotion to the work of the district. In the new leader, Mrs. Florence Howe Hall, and vice-leader, Mrs. Joseph Talbot Maclean, the district has secured officers who bring with them enviable records of successful suffrage work.

**14th Assembly District.**

The district reports as a result of the election held at the Convention, January 13th, the re-election of Miss McOuat, leader, and Mrs. Mary Wade LeBaron, vice-leader.

**15th Assembly District.**

The new suffrage year in the 15th District opens with a new leader, Miss Frances Peters, and a new vice-leader, Mrs. Winters Russell. Mrs. Anna M. Wilkinson was elected secretary, and Miss Hancock, treasurer.

**17th Assembly District.**

The report of the district is comprised in the brief statement of the result of the Convention—officers re-elected.

**19th Assembly District.**

The Convention was held Tuesday afternoon, January 13th, at the Progressive Club, and all officers were unanimously re-elected.

**21st Assembly District.**

The 21st repeats the story of the preceding districts, re-election of officers, a recognition of capable work.

**23d Assembly District.**

There has been a change of leadership in this district as a result of the recent Convention. Mrs. O'Sullivan, the former leader, declined a renomination, and Mrs. M. L. Ogan was elected in her place.

The vice-leaders are Mrs. J. A. Bolles, Mrs. Lloyd Hepburn and Mrs. Granville Munson. A unanimous vote of thanks was tendered Mrs. O'Sullivan for her faithful and tireless service. A reception was given on January 16th, at the residence of Mrs. Charles L. Guy, 335 Convent Avenue. Mrs. F. M. Cronise was the principal speaker, and Miss Watson gave her experience as a voluntary prisoner at Auburn. Songs by Miss Marion Ball were an admirable feature of the entertainment.

**25th Assemby District.**

Elsewhere in the current number of The Voter will be found a full report of the Authors' Evening arranged by Mrs. Paula Jakobi, a brilliant valedictory effort on retiring from the leadership. The newly elected leader is Mrs. John Z. Lowe; her assistants are Mrs. Allan Dawson and Miss Mary Towle, first and second vice-leaders, respectively.

**27th Assembly District.**

Suffrage had its first hearing at L'Union Chretienne de Jeunes Gens, otherwise French Branch, Y. M. C. A., 109 West 54th Street, on Saturday evening, December 20th, under the auspices of the Literary Society of the Association. The affair was arranged by Mrs. Thayer-Iaccaci; and Mrs. Anna Ross Weeks and Mrs. Frederick Nathan made addresses in French on the theme of Woman Suffrage. The large hall was crowded with attentive listeners, who deserted billiards and other games in interested compliment to the speakers. Besides a vote of thanks, a cordial invitation to come again was extended to the speakers.

**31st Assembly District.**

As a preparation for the future, the district election was carried on as any general election under the laws of the State. Ballots were correctly marked in minimum time, and consigned to a regulation ballot-box. The choice of the voters was the re-election of the district officers. A class in parliamentary law has been organized and meets every Friday evening at the home of the leader, Mrs. Lillian Griffin, 35 Mt. Morris Park West.

## BROOKLYN.

**1st Assembly District.**

A well-attended meeting of the district was held on the afternoon of December 26th. At the Annual Convention on January 13th Miss Grace Collins was elected leader, Mrs. C. M. Field, first vice-leader, Miss Beatrice Fraser, second vice-leader, and Mrs. George Notman, third vice-leader.

**3d Assembly District.**

At the regular monthly meeting of the district, held December 29th, at the residence of Mrs. C. Heusecher, 367 Clinton Street, reports given showed the progress of suffrage work in the district. Miss Claire Shannon provided a musical program, Miss Charlotte Smith made an address and one hundred dollars was pledged to the Borough. Among the activities of the past month was a successful euchre party at the residence of Mrs. Joseph C. Hale, 430 Clinton Street. At the District Convention Mrs. C. H. Winslow was re-elected leader, and Mrs. William H. Rorke, vice-leader.

**5th Assembly District.**

The District Convention was held on January 13th at the residence of Miss Ida A. Craft, 294 Stuyvesant Avenue, when Mrs. A. McClinchie was chosen leader, and Miss Mary Merwin, vice-leader.

**6th Assembly District.**

Mrs. Mark Rudich was elected district leader at the Convention held on January 13th, and Miss Mollie Gold was elected vice-leader. At this meeting a committee

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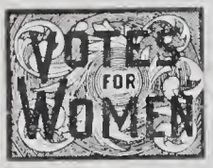


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ROCHESTER, N. Y.

was appointed to arrange a suffrage tea at the Republican Club, on February 17th. A large mass meeting was held at the Broadway Casino on the evening of January 27th. The speakers were Rabbi Nathan Krass, of Temple Israel, Mrs. Raymond Brown, president State Suffrage Association, and Hon. Herbert A. Warbasse, Assistant District Attorney. While the collection was taken up Mrs. Edward Cahn made a short address.

**8th Assembly District.**

At the Convention held January 13th, at 44 Douglass Street, the following officers were elected: Leader, Miss E. A. Hopkins; secretary, Miss S. Storti; treasurer, Mrs. J. Hutchinson. Delegates to the Borough and City Conventions were appointed. Plans are under way for a public meeting on February 16, at Norge Hall, 335 Union street, at which Mr. Warbasse will speak.

**9th Assembly District.**

On January 7th a public meeting of the Bay Ridge Suffrage Club was held at Exempt Firemen's Hall. The speakers were Miss Marion Tilden Burritt, who talked on "Men, Women and War," and Mr. Seichi E. Ikemoto, a student at Union Theological Seminary, who greatly interested the audience in "The Women of Japan."

The Bay Ridge Suffrage Club held a reception on January 21st, in honor of Mrs. H. Edward Dreier, and the newly elected borough officials.

**10th Assembly District.**

The Study Club of the district held an interesting meeting on January 5th, under the chairmanship of Miss Edith P. Buckman, at which Mr. and Mrs. O'Connor spoke on "The Board of Alderman." The meeting of January 19th was devoted to "The Mayor, the Borough Presidents and the Departments," with Miss Alice T. Bowen and Mr. Vernum as speakers. Mrs. Barker declining to serve another year, owing to the demands made upon her as Borough organizer, Mrs. Mary B. Orr, an active worker, was elected leader at the District Convention, January 13th.

**11th Assembly District.**

The amount collected by the district in small pledges for the Borough campaign was $270. In this were included sums from 5 cents to $13. At the District Convention Mrs. Julia W. Perkins was elected leader.

**12th Assembly District.**

The District Convention was held at 21 Montgomery Place and was a most enthusiastic meeting. Mrs. H. B. Bayles was elected leader, and Miss Grace Frank vice-leader. A new club is to be organized in the southern end of the district, under the direction of Mrs. Langlotz, assisted by Miss Bock. A ways and means committee was appointed with Miss Katherine Dauchy as chairman. On December 17th a group of young ladies arranged a suffrage bridge at the home of Miss Zabriskie, at which sixty-eight persons were present.

A suffrage tea was given at 402 Ninth Street on January 28th, at which Mrs. Martha Wentworth Suffren was guest of honor and speaker.

**13th Assembly District.**

The newly elected leader and vice-leader of the district, elected on January 13, are respectively Mrs. Maud Taylor Dobie and Miss Virginia Olcott.

**18th Assembly District.**

The district has a record of nine meetings during the past month, indicative of the activity of its members. Among these are meetings of the three district clubs and a successful bridge party given by Club Four. The feature of the month was the mass meeting under the auspices of Club Two in the auditorium of Commercial High School, Albany Avenue and Bergen Street. The large audience was addressed by Mrs. Jean Nelson Penfield, Mrs. Inez Milholland Boissevain and Judge John Sherwin Crosby. The newly elected leader is Mrs. W. C. Machin.

## BRONX.

The effect of the recent campaign in the Bronx was manifest in the attendance at the district conventions and enthusiasm of the members of the respective districts. In the 30th A. D. Mrs. Anna Wagner, of 345 East 134th Street, previously appointed, was elected leader, with Mrs. Barnetta Bowman, vice-leader. The 32d A. D. held its convention at Bethany Presbyterian Church on East 137th Street, with a large attendance. Mrs. Robert George Davey, wife of the Rev. Mr. Davey, pastor of Bethany Church, was chosen leader, with Mrs. Peter A. Sheil, vice-leader. In the 33d District Mrs. Grace Flaherty, who had been appointed leader during the campaign, was unanimously elected to the office at the convention. In the other districts the officers were re-elected. With the strength added as a result of the campaign under Field Secretary Klatschken, the Bronx will line up with its sister boroughs in suffrage activity.

## QUEENS.

Conventions were held in the three assembly districts of Queens Borough on January 13th, and were well attended. In the 1st District Mrs. Helen McCormick, of Long Island City, was elected leader, and Miss Molly Farrell, of Astoria, vice-leader. The 2d District chose as its leader Mrs. E. J. Smith, of Forest Hills, and Mrs. T. Shortell, of Elmhurst, vice-leader. Those who will direct suffrage work in the 3d District for the coming year are Mrs. L. De Pinna, of Far Rockaway, leader, and Mrs. George Schubel, of Ridgewood, vice-leader. A meeting was held at the residence of Mrs. De Pinna, Woodbine Lane, Far Rockaway, on January 29th, at which Miss Portia Willis was the speaker. On the 14th of this month Miss Hilda Hoffman, with a corps of helpers, will canvass the entire town of Far Rockaway, which comprises the 52d, 53d and 54th Election Districts. On the 18th, the 50th and 51st Election Districts will be canvassed, under the direction of Mrs. De Pinna.

## RICHMOND.

The 1st and only Assembly District of the borough held its annual convention on January 13th, at the Willcox Gymnasium. In the absence of the leader, Miss Whitmore, the borough chairman, Mrs. W. G. Willcox, presided. The election resulted in the choice of the following officers for the ensuing year: Leader, Mrs. Francis E. Brewer; vice-leader, Miss Elsa Evans; recording secretary, Mrs. Arthur Hollick; corresponding secretary, Miss Blake; treasurer, Mrs. C. H. Brown.

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### A WOMAN LEADER FOR COLORADO.

MRS. GERTRUDE A. LEE of Denver became chairman of the Democratic State Central Committee on January 14th. Mrs. Lee, who has been vice-chairman, is the first woman chairman of a State Committee. She was a Presidential elector at the last election.

Commenting upon her new office, the *New York Tribune* said:

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# Calendar For February

## DRAMATIC TEA AND FÊTE.

**GRAND BALLROOM, HOTEL BILTMORE,**
**Monday Afternoon, February 16th, at 3.30.**

*To Celebrate the Birthdays of Susan B. Anthony and Dr. Anna Howard Shaw, Under the Auspices of the New York State Woman Suffrage Association, Headquarters, 1 East 41st Street.*

*The entertainment will be furnished by Edith Wynne Mathison, who will read; Laurette Taylor, who will act in a one-act play; Lydia Lopoukowa, who will dance, and Mme. Pilar-Marin, who will appear in pantomime, while Florence Fleming Noyes will do a suffrage dance especially arranged for the occasion.*

*The patrons are Daniel Frohman, William A. Brady, Montague Glass, Mr. and Mrs. Cecil de Mille, Winthrop Ames, Alice Bradley, Bayard Veiller, Percy Mackaye, Christie MacDonald, Charles Rann Kennedy, George Cohen, Rose Stahl, George Middleton, Harrison Grey Fisher, Edgar Selwyn, Cleveland Moffett, James Forbes and Edward Sheldon.*

*Tea will be served by Grace George, Blanche Bates, Jane Peyton, Lillian Russell, Margaret Wycherly, Louise Closser Hale, Billie Burke, Alice Fisher, Kitty Cheatham, Julie Opp, Marguerite Clark, Alexandra Carlisle, Crystal Herne, Mary Nash, Louise Drew, Ann Swineburne, Jane Cowl and Frances Starr.*

♣ ♣ ♣

## Woman Suffrage Party
## CITY CONVENTION.
### FEBRUARY 2d, 1914
### FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE, 227 EAST 15TH STREET.
### 8 P. M.

**Feb. 2d.**—Manhattan, 17th Assembly District Club meeting, 257 W. 99th Street. 8 P. M.

**Feb. 2d.**—Meeting for captains and club members.

**Feb. 3d.**—Manhattan, 21st Assembly District Meeting, 609 W. 137th Street. 8 P. M.

Manhattan, 25th Assembly District, meeting for captains and club members, 130 W. 11th Street. 8 P. M.

Manhattan, 25th Assembly District, 28 Greenwich Avenue. 8 P. M. Open meeting, Greenwich Village Social Center Suffrage Club. Everybody welcome.

Brooklyn, 6th Assembly District meeting at 259 Vernon Avenue. 8 P. M.

Brooklyn, 11th Assembly District Executive meeting. Captains and active workers. 202 Lefferts Place, 8:15 P. M.

Queens, 4th Assembly District Open meeting, Public School 34, Queens, L. I., 8 P. M. Speakers: Mr. Alfred Brown, Miss Mary Shaw, Mrs. Griffin.

**Feb. 4.**—Manhattan, 29th Assembly District Social meeting, 3-6, Headquarters. Speaker: Dr. Halton.

**Feb. 4th.**—Brooklyn, 9th Assembly District Public meeting, 8 P. M., Exempt Firemen's Hall, 69th Street, near 3d Avenue. Speaker: James F. Morton, Jr.

**Feb. 5th.**—Manhattan, 25th Assembly District, 48 E. 34th Street. "At Home." 4 to 6 P. M. All cordially invited.

Queens, 4th Assembly District, 60 Terrace Avenue, Jamaica. 3 P. M. Card party. Mrs. H. R. Linville and members Jamaica Suffrage Club.

Queens, 4th Assembly District, League Building, Flushing. 3:30 P. M. Regular meeting.

**Feb. 6th.**—Brooklyn, 11th Assembly District. Open meeting, 239 Gates Avenue. 8 P. M. All residents in district invited. Speaker: Mr. Herbert N. Warbasse.

Queens, 4th Assembly District, Regular meeting, 88 Union Place, Richmond Hill. 3 P. M.

**Feb. 7th.**—Manhattan, Card party, 2:30 P. M., Headquarters, 48 E. 34th Street. Mrs. Balch in charge. Tickets 50 cents, at Headquarters. Prizes.

**Feb. 9th.**—Manhattan, 17th Assembly District meeting, at 257 W. 99th Street. 8 P. M.

Manhattan, 23d Assembly District meeting, at Progressive Club Rooms. 8:15 P. M. Business and speaking.

Brooklyn, 5th Assembly District meeting, 544 Halsey Street. 8:30 P. M. Speakers: Miss Ida A. Craft, Mr. Phillip Comstock, Mrs. E. T. O'Loughlin.

Brooklyn, 10th Assembly District Study Club, Headquarters, 27 Lafayette Avenue. 8 P. M.

**Feb. 10th.**—Brooklyn, 10th Assembly District meeting for discussion, 550 Franklin Avenue. 8:15 P. M. Good speakers. All invited.

Brooklyn, 18th Assembly District meeting of Club 4, 36 Midwood Street. 8 P. M. Address by Miss Jeannette S. Taylor.

**Feb. 11th.**—Brooklyn, 5th Assembly District, Headquarters. Tea 3-6.

**Feb. 12th.**—Manhattan, 25th Assembly District "At Home," 48 E. 34th Street. 4 to 6 P. M. All invited.

**Feb. 13th.**—Brooklyn, 14th Assembly District Business meeting, 128 South 1st Street. 8 P. M.

**Feb. 14th.**—Queens, 4th Assembly District, Bayside Suffrage Club. 3 P. M.

Richmond, 1st Assembly District, Bridge for Suffrage, Willcox Gymnasium, 115 Davis Avenue, West New Brighton.

**Feb. 16th.**—Manhattan, 17th Assembly District Club meeting, 257 W. 99th Street. 8 P. M.

Manhattan, 14th Assembly District Public meeting, Kindergarten Room, Phipps Building, 325 E. 31st Street. 8 P. M. Speaker: Mrs. Frederick Gillette.

Brooklyn, 8th Assembly District Public meeting, Norge Hall, 335 Union Street.

Brooklyn, 18th Assembly District, meeting of Club 2, 1054 Sterling Place. 8 P. M. Speaker: Mr. F. J. Melvin.

**Feb. 17th.**—Manhattan, 21st Assembly District, Social meeting, 63 W. 127th Street. 8 P. M.

**Feb. 18th.**—Manhattan, 12th Assembly District. Reception and tea to new officers, Headquarters, 48 E. 34th Street. 4 to 6 P. M. Speaker: Mrs. Florence Howe Hall, the new leader.

**Feb. 18th.**—Brooklyn, 9th Assembly District, Public meeting, Exempt Firemen's Hall, 69th Street, near 3d Avenue. 8 P. M. Speaker: Mrs. E. J. Nelson Penfield.

Brooklyn, 18th Assembly District meeting, Progressive Club, Church Avenue. 3 P. M. Speaker: Mrs. Florence Howe Hall, the new

**Feb. 19th.**—Manhattan, 25th Assembly District, "At Home," 48 E. 34th Street, 4 to 6 P. M. All invited.

Queens, 3d Assembly District Open meeting, 175 Foxall Street, Ridgewood. 8 P. M. Speaker: Mrs. Earl Whitaker.

**Feb. 20th.**—Manhattan, Headquarters, 48 E. 34th Street. Card party. 2:30 P. M. Mrs. Balch in charge. Tickets 50 cents, at Headquarters. Prizes.

**Feb. 23d.**—Manhattan, 17th Assembly District meeting, 257 W. 99th Street. 8 P. M.

Manhattan, 17th Assembly District Suffrage Tea and Talk, 224 Riverside Drive.

Brooklyn, 10th Assembly District Study Club, Headquarters, 27 Lafayette Avenue. 8 P. M.

**Feb. 26th.**—Manhattan, 25th Assembly District "At Home," 48 E. 34th Street, 4 to 6 P. M. All invited.

**Feb. 27th.**—Brooklyn, 14th Assembly District Business meeting, 128 South 1st Street. 8 P. M.

**PEOPLES' INSTITUTE**

## TWO MASS MEETINGS

### COOPER UNION

**February 17, 1914, 8 P. M.**

**"WHAT FEMINISM MEANS TO ME."**
**Marie Jenney Howe, Chairman.**

*Speakers: Norman Hapgood, Rose Young, Henrietta Rodman, Jesse Lynch Williams, Frances Perkins, Crystal Eastman Benedict, Will Irwin, Mrs. Frank Cothren, George Middleton, Floyd Dell, Edwin Bjorkman.*

### COOPER UNION

**February 20, 1914, 8 P M.**

**"BREAKING INTO THE HUMAN RACE."**

*Speakers: The Right to Her Convictions, Mary Shaw; The Right to Work, Rheta Childe Dorr; The Right to Specialize Household Service, Charlotte Perkins Gilman; The Right of the Woman Worker to Motherhood, Beatrice Forbes-Robertson; The Right to Ignore Fashion, Nina Wilcox Putnam; The Right to Organize, Rose Schneiderman; The Need of Solidarity, Marie Jenney Howe.*

**POLITICAL EQUALITY ASSOCIATION.**

*Public meetings at the Headquarters of the Political Equality Association, 15 East 41st Street, Monday evenings at 8:30 P. M. Admission free and the public cordially invited to attend.*

**Monday, Feb. 2d.**—Speaker: Mr. Lyman Beecher Stowe.

**Monday, Feb. 9th.**—Speaker: Miss Wenonah Marlin.

**Monday, Feb. 16th.**—Speaker: Miss Aimée C. Hutchinson.

**MEN'S LEAGUE FOR WOMAN SUFFRAGE.**

**Feb. 3d.**—Regular meeting. 8 P. M. 48 E. 34th Street.

**Feb. 17th.**—Regular meeting. 8 P. M. 48 E. 34th Street.

**THE EQUAL FRANCHISE SOCIETY.**

*Meetings every Tuesday at 4 P. M. Admission free to members. To the public, fifty cents. Tea served.*

**Feb. 3d.**—Women in the Intellectual Development of the Race. Speaker: Prof. James Henry Robinson.

**Feb. 10th.**—The Parasitic Woman a Menace to the Race. Speaker: Prof. Henry R. Mussey.

**Feb. 17th.**—Guardians of the City's Health. Speaker: Dr. Josephine Baker.

**Feb. 24th.**—Suffrage From the Religious Angle. Speaker: Rev. John Haynes Holmes.


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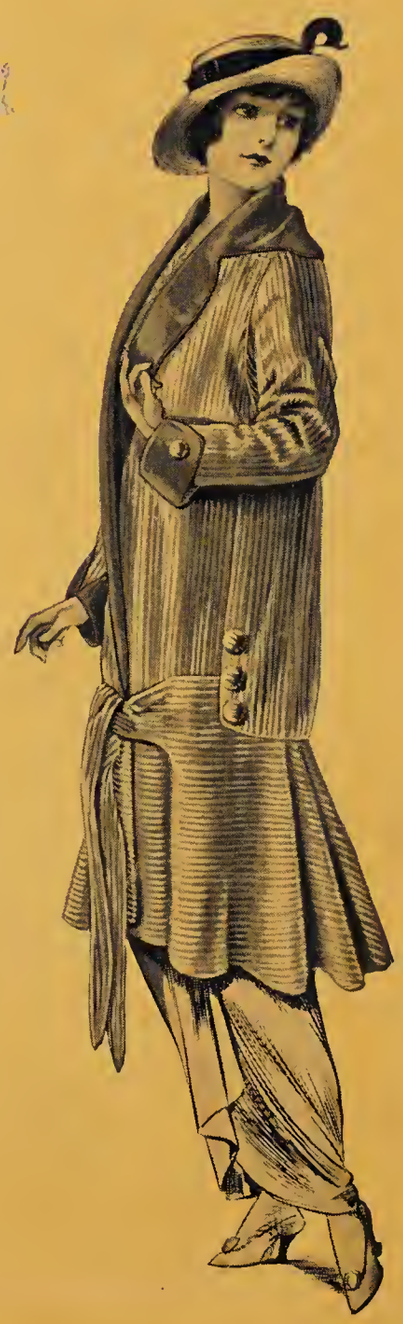

72